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LYNNFIELD'S GOLD STAR
----------SERVICEMEN----------

WORLD WAR II
KOREA
VIETNAM

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DEDICATION

This booklet is dedicated to preserving the memory of those Lynnfield servicemen who gave their lives in the service of our country. We are forever indebted to them.

. . . . . .

The pictures of the servicemen and the accompanying newspaper accounts are presented in the order in which the young men died. There is one exception to this rule: Paul Pinkham is listed first because he became a prisoner-of-war on May 6, 1942, and remained a Japanese prisoner until his death on October 24, 1944. Paul had been a prisoner for one full year (and Japan had extended its empire across much of the Pacific) before America was ready to go on the offensive. The first Pacific island the Americans took back was the tiny island of Attu in the Aleutians. Lloyd Elwell, the first man from Lynnfield to die in WWII, was killed in action during the bitter fighting on Attu.

The purpose of this booklet is to introduce the reader to each of the young servicemen from Lynnfield who died in World War II and Korea and Vietnam. Although relatively few in number, they represented virtually every branch of the service. Some fought in well-publicized battles; others fought in remote areas little known to most Americans. Almost all of them died a very long way from home.

Lynnfield's Gold Star Servicemen – WWII, Korea and Vietnam

Paul Webster Pinkham, Fireman Second Class, U.S.Navy.
July 2, 1922 — October 24, 1944.

Lloyd A. Elwell, Private First Class, U. S. Army Infantry.
January 10, 1915 — May 29, 1943.

Charles Wesley Tuttle, Staff Sergeant, Gunner, U.S.Army Air Corps.
June 20,1909 — August 7, 1943.

William N. Sparkes, First Lieutenant, U.S.Army, Paratrooper.
May 1, 1914 — February 5,1944.

Herbert K. Dow, Private, U.S.Army Infantry.
August 22, 1914 — July 15, 1944.

John E. Harriss, Jr., Second Lieutenant, U.S.Air Force.
June 1, 1923 — July 19, 1944.

Ralph Cushman, Seaman First Class, U.S.N.R. Sea Bees.
September 5, 1920 — August 16,1944.

David B. Todd, Private First Class, U. S. Army Infantry.
May 14,1925 — November 21, 1944.

Robert Pirie, Carpenter's Mate First Class, U.S.N.R. Sea Bees.
June 10,1909 — February 19, 1945.

Charles Nelson Todd, First Lieutenant, U.S.Army.
March 13, 1921 — March 8, 1945.

Roy J. LaFrenier, Corporal, U.S.Army.
July 27, 1915 — March 9, 1945.

Richard R. Poeton, First Lieutenant, U.S. Air Force.
October 7, 1923 — April 16, 1945.

Richard F. Crooker, Pharmacist Mate, Second Class, U.S. Navy.
March 8, 1925 — March 15, 1947.

. . . . . .

Ronald J. Foglietta, Airman Second Class, U.S. Air Force.
April 9, 1932 — February 27, 1953.

David R. Hardy, Lieutenant (jg), U.S. Naval Air Force.
January 9, 1935 — December 21, 1960.

Kent H. Waring, First Lieutenant, U.S. Air Force.
December 19, 1935 — January 6, 1961.

Allan H. Jordan, First Lieutenant, U.S. Marine Corps.
June 7, 1943 — April 6, 1968.

Eric Charles Thompson, Lieutenant (jg), U. S. Naval Air Force.
December 19, 1948 — August 9, 1972.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

I wish to thank the Wakefield Daily Item for granting permission to copy photographs and articles from the clipping files at the Item office and also from the Item microfilm files stored at the Beebe Library. This booklet could not have been prepared without the kind assistance and encouragement of the Item office staff and the Beebe Library reference staff. The reference departments of the Lynnfield, Lynn, Medford, Melrose, and Salem Public Libraries assisted in the search for relatives of the gold star servicemen.

The following relatives kindly donated pictures and/or other material used in this booklet and also in historical displays at the Lynnfield Library and the Old Meeting House on the Common:

Mrs. Betty Hansen – Paul Pinkham
Mrs. Terry Lawrence and Mrs. Barbara Soule – Lloyd Elwell
Mrs. Mildred Lisi – Charles Wesley Tuttle
Mr. Robert Sparkes – William Sparkes
Mrs. Barbara Pingree – Herbert Dow
Mr. Donald Harriss – John Harriss, Jr.
Mrs. Roger Woodbury – Ralph Cushman
Mr. Charles D. Todd – David Todd and Charles Todd
Mrs. Bryce Horton – Robert Pirie
Mrs. Norman LaFrenier – Roy LaFrenier
Mrs. Loretta Gibbons – Ronald Foglietta
Mrs. Kent Waring – Kent Waring
Mrs. Emily Jordan – Allan Jordan

W. Patrick Carroll of Lynnfield High School volunteered his computer skills to enhance old World War II newspaper photographs. Two of these enhanced photos are used in this booklet.

I also wish to thank Mr. Neil Restani, the Lynnfield Veteran's Agent, for his encouragement throughout this lengthy research project.

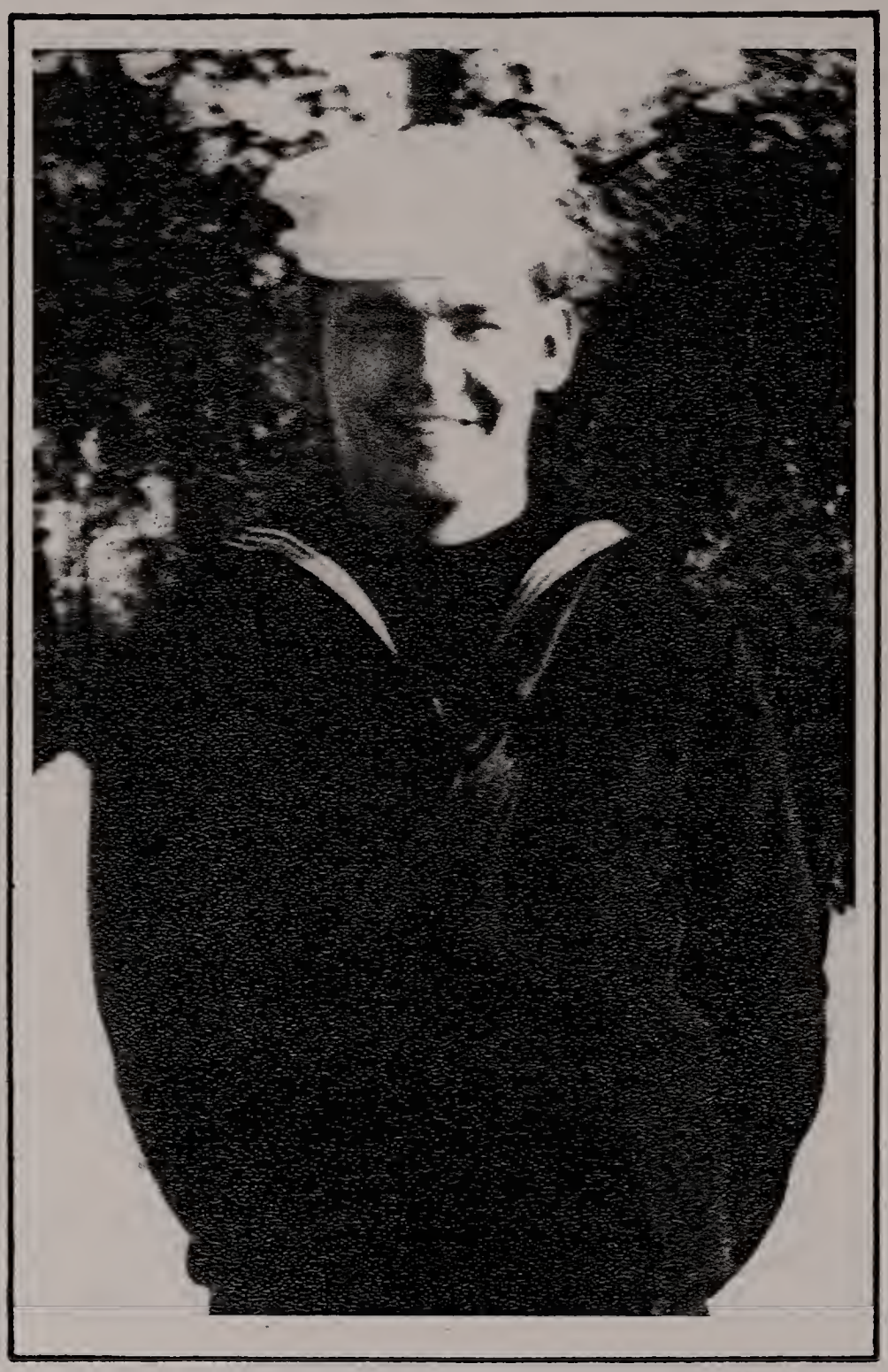
Finally, I want to thank my husband for his support and for all the miles he logged driving me to visit libraries and relatives of servicemen.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn M. Zynsky

PART ONE:

WORLD WAR II



Fireman Second Class Paul W. Pinkham

Age 22. Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Pinkham, 938 Main Street, Lynnfield. Fireman Second Class, U.S.Navy. Taken prisoner at the surrender of the Manila Bay area to the Japanese, May 6, 1942. He died when Japanese prison ship was sunk, October 24, 1944.

Lynnfield Sailor Missing After Manila Action

THE WAKEFIELD DAILY ITEM, JUNE 2, 1942

Paul W. Pinkham Attended W. H. S. ---Once Served on "Arizona," Sunk at Pearl Harbor

Paul Webster Pinkham of Main st, Lynnfield Center, a fireman, second class, of the U. S. Navy has been reported missing. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Pinkham.

Pinkham enlisted in the navy two years ago. After training at Newport, R. I., he was sent to the West Coast, where he was assigned to duty with the Pacific Fleet on board the U. S. S. Arizona. Before the Arizona was bombed at Pearl Harbor, he was transferred to the Asiatic Fleet and assigned to a submarine tender, the Canopus. As far as his parents know he has not been transferred again.

On Dec. 19, Mrs. Pinkham received a telegram of Christmas greetings from her son sent from Manila, and on May 12, a telegram from Washington said Paul was "reported missing when the Manila Bay area capitulated." No more definite report has been received.

He attended Wakefield High School, leaving there to enlist. He was a member of the Melrose Order of DeMolay.

He would have been 20 next month.

THE WAKEFIELD DAILY ITEM. JUNE 28, 1945

Paul Pinkham, Once Jap War Prisoner, Now Reported Dead

Paul Pinkham, fireman 2/c, U. S. Navy, a prisoner of the Japanese since 1942 following the capitulation of the Manila Bay area, is now reported to have died on Oct. 24, 1944.

This information has been received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Pinkham, formerly of 938 Main st, Lynnfield Center, in a telegram from the War Department. It came as a special shock, because Mr. and Mrs. Pinkham had received two cards, the usual prison form communications, undated, from their son within recent weeks, leading them to hope for his safety.

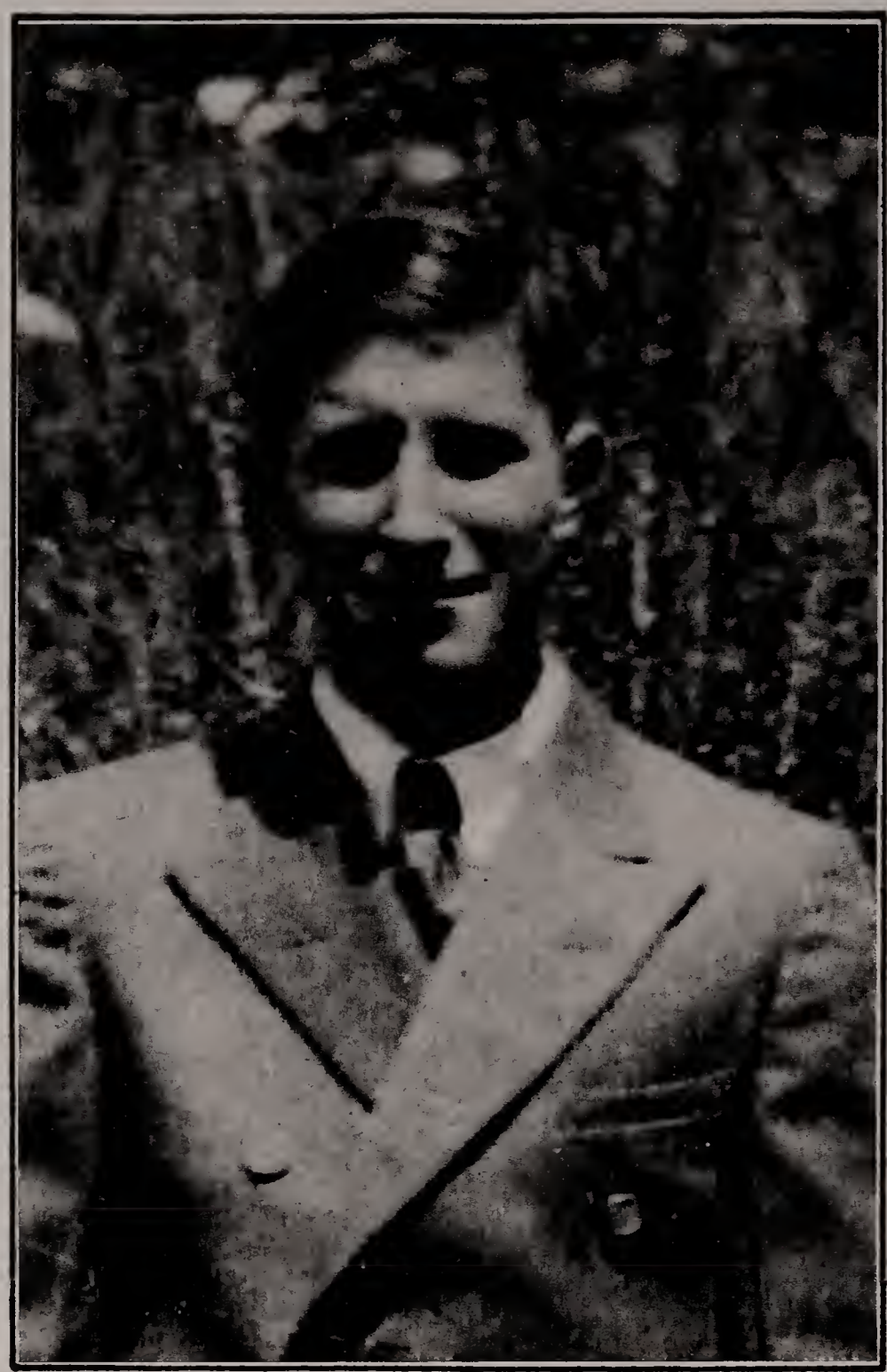
The telegram stated that he went down on a ship, Oct. 24, 1944, which is about the time when Japanese prison ships were sunk as they were removing prisoners from the Philippines, presumably to Japan.

He would have been 23 years old on July 2. He had been in the navy five years, enlisting in 1940. He received training at Newport, R. I., then went to the West Coast and was assigned to duty with the Pacific Fleet, on the U. S. S. Arizona. Before the bombing of the Arizona at Pearl Harbor he was transferred to the Asiatic fleet, and assigned to the submarine tender, Canopus.

His parents received a telegram of Christmas greeting on Dec. 19, 1941, and heard no more until the War Department reported him missing on May 12, 1942.

He was attending Wakefield High School at the time of his enlistment. He was a member of the Melrose Order of DeMolay.

Lynnfield flags are at half-staff in his honor.



Private First Class Lloyd A. Elwell

Age 28. Brother of Wayne Elwell, 100 Beaver Avenue, Lynnfield; son of the late Albert and Florence Elwell of Leominster, Mass. Private 1st Class, U.S.Army Infantry. Killed in action on Attu Island in the Aleutians, May 29, 1943.

THE WAKEFIELD DAILY ITEM, JUNE 17, 1943

Lloyd Elwell of Lynnfield Center Killed In Action

Was In Army Service In Alaska; Attended W. H. S. and Formerly Made His Home In Greenwood

Lloyd Elwell, age 28, U. S. Army infantryman who made his home with his brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Elwell, 100 Beaver ave, Lynnfield Center, was killed in action in Alaska on May 29, according to a War Department telegram received this morning by his sister, Mrs. Gladys Lawrence of Blossom st, Leominster.

The telegram stated a letter of confirmation would follow.

Elwell attended Wakefield High School while living in Lynnfield, and earlier lived with his uncle, Frank Elwell, 21 Greenwood ave, Greenwood. Mrs. William Zelck of 17 Cooper st, Greenwood, is a cousin. Frank Elwell now is living at 19 Berry ave, Pittsfield, N. H.

The soldier was a son of the late Albert and Florence Elwell of Leominster.

Survivors, in addition to his brother in Lynnfield and sister in Leominster, are two other sisters and brothers. They are Mrs. Barbara Soule of Melrose, Mrs. Muriel Worthen of New Bedford, Norman, of Lynn, and Maurice Elwell of Los Angeles, Cal.

THE VILLAGE PRESS, LYNNFIELD, MASS., JUNE 25, 1943

Lloyd A. Elwell Killed In Action

Lloyd A. Elwell of Beaver Ave. who enlisted in the U. S. Army September 1, 1940 has been killed in action at Attu. He is the first casualty from Lynnfield. The town flags will fly at half mast for seven days in token of his supreme sacrifice.

Staff Sergeant Charles Wesley Tuttle

Age 34. Son of Thomas Albert Tuttle, 38 Forest Hill Avenue, Lynnfield; husband of Ruth Tuttle, Lynn; father of Robert Tuttle, age 4. Staff Sergeant; Gunner, U.S.Army Air Corps. Killed in action in New Guinea, August 7, 1943.

THE WAKEFIELD DAILY ITEM, AUGUST 24, 1943

Lynnfield Airman Killed In South Pacific Battle

Tuttle Family Puzzled Over Telegram of Sympathy Until Official Word Arrived This Morning

Word was officially received from the War Department, this morning, that Staff Sgt. Charles Wesley Tuttle, son of Thomas Albert Tuttle of Forest Hill ave, Lynnfield Center, was killed in action in New Guinea on Aug. 7.

No notification of the young man's death had been previously received, nor had it been received up to last evening either by his father or by his wife, Mrs. Ruth Tuttle of Lynn, but last night Mr. Tuttle had a telegram of sympathy from the office of the adjutant-general in Washington. Until this morning, this created considerable doubt in the family.

Sgt. Tuttle enlisted in the Air Corps in July, 1942. He began his training as a gunner in Florida and had been overseas for several months. A short time ago he wrote his father that he had been hospitalized for a wound received in action, but had recovered and was eager to get back into action.

He has one son, Robert, 4 years old, who has made his home for the past year with Sgt. Tuttle's sister, Mrs. Mildred Lisi, at the Tuttle home on Forest Hill ave, Lynnfield Center.

Two brothers are in the service—Lt. Albert W. Tuttle of the Army Military Police and Sgt. Gordon Tuttle, Army Air Corps, now stationed in California.

Sgt. Tuttle was a graduate of Wakefield High School and was well-known as a ball player.

For the past few years he and his family had lived in Lynn, where he was employed at the Haskell Lumber Company.

First Lieutenant William N. Sparkes

Age 29. Son of Mr. and Mrs. William C. Sparkes, 525 Salem Street, Lynnfield, and husband of Dorothy Wright Sparkes, West Fitchburg, Mass. 1st Lieutenant, U.S.Army. Paratrooper with the 456th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion, 7th Army. Killed in action at Anzio, Italy, February 5, 1944.

THE WAKEFIELD DAILY ITEM, MARCH 6, 1944

Lt. William Sparkes, Former W. H. S. Athlete Killed On Italian Front

Lt. William N. Sparkes, 29, son of Mr. and Mrs. William C. Sparkes of 525 Salem st, South Lynnfield, an army paratrooper with a Field Artillery Battalion, Seventh Army, was killed in action in Italy on Feb. 5, according to a telegram from the War Department received by his parents last Friday night.

Lt. Sparkes was graduated from Wakefield High School in 1932, where he was a captain of the varsity hockey team during the 1931-'32 season and was captain of the basketball team in 1929. He also was a star fooball player at W. H. S., Bucksport Academy and Miami University, Oxford, O.

Before entering the army three years ago this month he was employed as a salesman by Bird & Son, Walpole, covering territory in Minnesota, North and South Dakato.

He had been overseas one year and previous to his departure his preliminary training was received at Fort Bragg, N. C.

His wife is the former Miss Dorothy Wright, 60 Temple st, West Fitchburg.

Lt. Sparkes was born in Lynn on May 1, 1914.

He leaves his widow, parents and two sisters, Miss Frances Sparkes and Mrs. Joseph Melanson of South Lynnfield; two brothers, Robert W., a chief petty officer in the navy, a former W. H. S. star athlete, now in the Southwest Pacific, and Pvt. John Sparkes, U. S. Army, awaiting call at his home.

Private Herbert K. Dow

Age 29. Husband of Mildred Hennigar Dow of Summer Street, Lynnfield; son of Mr. and Mrs. Chester A. Dow of Newburyport. Private, U.S.Army Infantry. Killed in action near Pisa, Italy, July 15, 1944.

THE WAKEFIELD DAILY ITEM, AUGUST 4, 1944

Pvt. Herbert K. Dow Of Lynnfield Killed In Fighting at Pisa

Widow Formerly One of Staff of Willhelmina Shop When Operating Here

Pvt. Herbert K. Dow, who entered the service from Lynnfield Center Aug. 26, 1943, was killed in action near Pisa, Italy, July 15, according to reports received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chester A. Dow of Newburyport.

He became a resident of Lynnfield Center following his marriaige Aug. 8, 1942, to Miss Mildred Hennigar of Danvers, niece of Mrs. Watson J. Walker of Walker's Plantation, Lynnfield Center.

They occupied the former Chilton Hastings cottage, now owned and occupied by Mrs. Marguerite Keyes. Before her marriage, Mrs. Dow assisted at Mrs. Walker's former Willhelmina Smart Shop in Wakefield Square.

Following his induction last August, Pvt. Dow received training as infantryman at Camp Wheeler, Ga., was hospitalized there two months for an operation, had an eight days' leave of absence in April, went to Camp Meade, Md., for further training and went overseas April 21 of this year.

His last letter home was written July 13, two days before his death. He would have been 30 years old Aug. 22.

He was a graduate of Newburyport High School, class of '33, and was prominent in football.

He was a member of the Odd Fellows.

His wife has been living with her parents since he went into the service.

Second Lieutenant John E. Harriss, Jr.

Age 21. Son of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Harriss of Lynnfield, Massachusetts, and Milford Stafford, England. 2nd Lieutenant, U.S.Air Force. Fighter Pilot. Missing on flight from Port Moresby, New Guinea, July 19, 1944.

EISENHOWER TELEGRAM, AUG.10, 1944

Charges to pay
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RECEIVED

No. _____
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CT 19 1944 CM
TELEGRAM
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Prefix. Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.

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From _____

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To _____

MRS ANNIE R HARRISS MILFORD LODGE MILFORD STAFFORD =

THE SECRETARY OF WAR DESIRES ME TO EXPRESS HIS DEEP REGRET THAT SECOND LIEUTENANT JOHN E HARRISS HAS BEEN MISSING SINCE 19 JULY 1944 OVER NEW GUINEA IF FURTHER DETAILS OR OTHER INFORMATION ARE RECEIVED YOU WILL BE PROMPTLY NOTIFIED

/ords telephone "TELEGRAMS ENQUIRY" or call, with this form B or C

= DWIGHT D EISENHOWER GENERAL US ARMY

Note: John E. Harriss, Jr. joined the R.A.F. in July, 1941, just after his 18th birthday. His family had moved to England in 1937. By the time John, Jr. completed R.A.F. pilot training in February, 1943, the United States was a full participant in the war; so John requested and received a transfer to the U.S.Air Force, in which he served until his death. Since the Harriss family was still in England at the time John was declared "Missing in Action," the U.S.War Department sent the telegram to his parents by way of General Eisenhower's Headquarters in England.

Seaman First Class Ralph Cushman

Age 23. Husband of Rachel Olmstead Cushman of 82 Summer Street, Lynnfield; son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert N. Cushman of Ellsworth, Maine. Seaman 1st Class, U.S.N.R., Sea Bees. Died August 16, 1944, at a military hospital in New Guinea.

THE WAKEFIELD DAILY ITEM,

AUGUST 21, 1944

Lynnfield Center

Ralph Cushman Critically Ill

Mrs. Rachel Olmsted Cushman of Summer st has received a telegram from the Navy Department stating that her husband, Ralph Cushman, seaman 1/c, U. S. Naval Reserve, is critically ill. The diagnosis given is acute lymphogenous leukemia. The location of the hospital where he is a patient was not given.

Seaman Cushman has been in the South Pacific area since last December, leaving the U. S. from Port Heumeme, Cal., last Thanksgiving Day. His letters to his wife have arrived regularly, three having arrived last week. One of these was written on Aug. 5, the first anniversary of their wedding. In it he expressed the hope that the orchid which he had ordered for her on that day had arrived on time, as it had.

Mrs. Cushman got in touch Saturday, with her husband's sister, Mrs. Roger Woodbury of Haverhill, formerly of Lynnfield Center, and Mrs. Woodbury was to convey the report to their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert N. Cushman at Ellsworth, Me.

LYNN DAILY EVENING ITEM,

SEPTEMBER 5, 1944

Ralph Cushman Dies in War

Mrs. Ralph Cushman, the former Miss Rachel Olmstead, of Summer street, Lynnfield Center, received a telegram from the Navy Department Saturday reporting the death of her husband, Ralph Cushman, seaman first class, U. S. States Naval Reserves, Aug. 16, in a Pacific Island hospital.

Mrs. Cushman received a telegram from the Navy Department on Aug. 18, reporting that her husband was critically ill and that the diagnosis was of lymphogenous leukemia. In the second telegram the cause of death was given as the same. The telegram stated that he had been buried in the hospital cemetery on a "Pacific Island."

Seaman Cushman was born in Ellsworth, Me., Sept. 5, 1920, the son of Albert N. and Ruth (Brown) Cushman. He entered the Sea Bees on April 19, 1943, and went to Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va., for his boot training. He was made seaman, second class, in July 10, 1943, and his marriage to Miss Olmstead took place on Aug. 5. In September, 1943, he went to Port Hueneme, Calif., and on Nov. 25, he left for the South Pacific. He was made seaman, first class, in January of this year.

His wife makes her home with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. I. Olmstead of Summer street, Lynnfield Center, and his parents reside in Ellsworth, Me.

There are also, one sister, Mrs. Roger Woodbury, formerly of Lynnfield Center, and now living in Haverhill; and two brothers, Dr. Fred Cushman of Franklin, Me., and Dr. Paul Cushman of Jonesport, Me.

Private First Class David B. Todd

Age 19. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson B. Todd, Summer Street, Lynnfield. Private First Class, U.S.Army. Served with Co.B, 18th Infantry Regiment, 1st Division. Killed in action in Germany, November 21, 1944.

THE WAKEFIELD DAILY ITEM, DEC.15, 1944

Pfc. David B. Todd Of Lynnfield Killed In Action In Germany

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson B. Todd of Summer st, Lynnfield, have received word from the War Department that their youngest son, Pfc. David Bradstreet Todd, 19, has been killed in action in Germany. He was in the infantry.

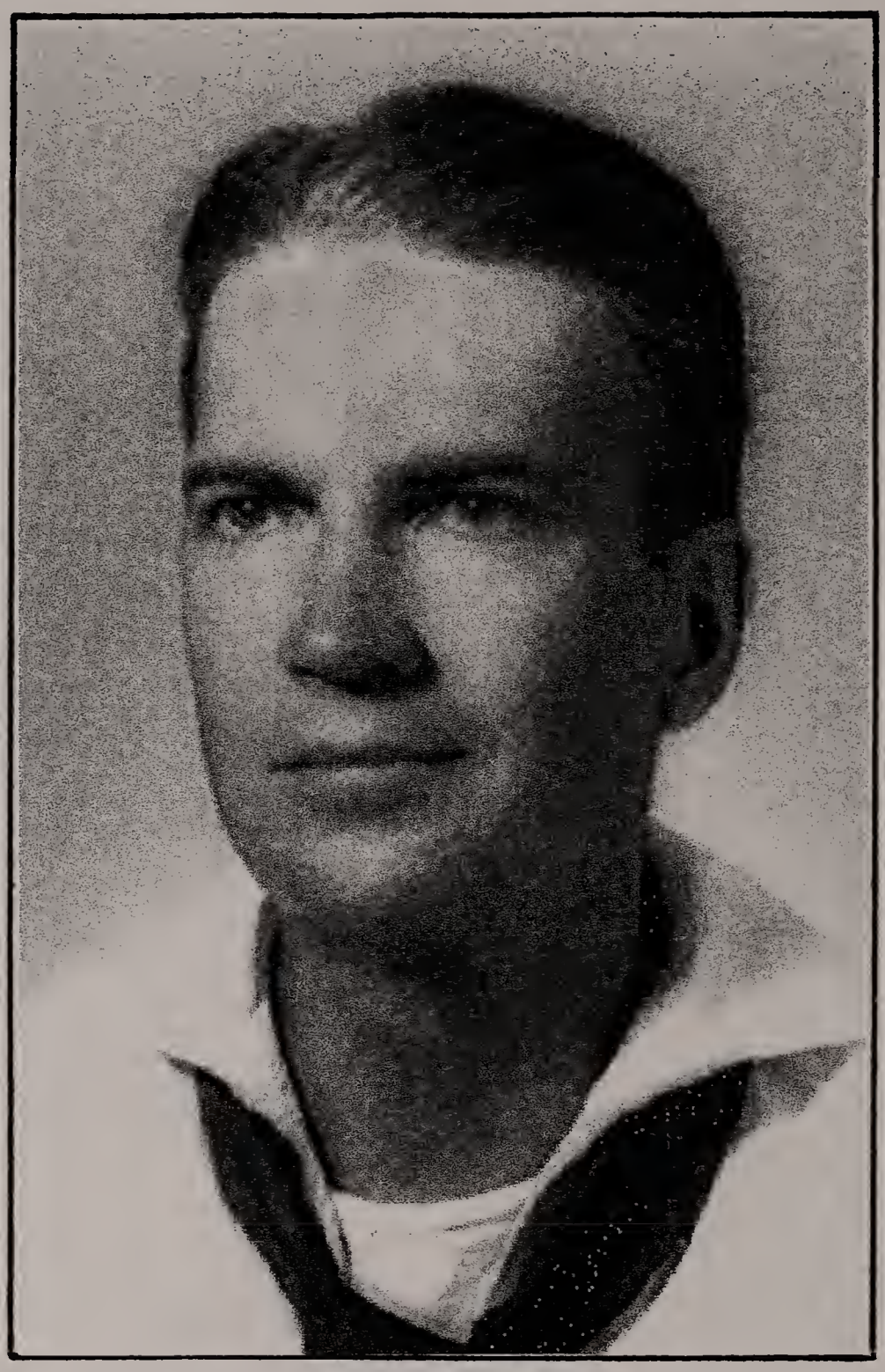
Pfc. Todd entered the service in October, 1943, and was sent to Port Benning, Ga., in the Army Specialized Training Program. When this program was given up by the army, he was transferred to the infantry and was sent to Camp Livingston, La., and later overseas.

He was a student of outstanding ability. Throughout a five-year course at Huntington School for Boys, Boston, he received a scholarship medal every year, and was graduated in June, 1942, as the highest ranking student in his class. In addition, in his freshman year, he received the award for excellence in French, and in his sophomore year he received awards in Latin and plane geometery He was awarded the Harvard prize book, given to the outstanding member of the junior class, and also received prizes for excellence in algebra and English, and awards for excellence in American history, French and chemistry, and was one of four members of his senior class to be elected to the Cum Laude Society.

His interests also included sports. He was a member of the tennis team, manager of the track team, and in his senior year was editor-in-chief of the school publication

He entered Dartmouth and concluded his sophomore year there in September, 1943, just previous to his enlistment.

A brother, Lt. Charles N Todd also is overseas, and another brother, the oldest son in the family, is Dr. Barnard P. Todd of Beverly



Carpenter's Mate 1st Class Robert Pirie

Age 35. Husband of Barbara Shaw Pirie, 2 Sylvan Circle, Lynnfield; son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Pirie, Nahant. Carpenter's Mate 1st Class, USNR; Seabee with 133rd Naval Construction Battalion, attached to 4th Division, U.S. Marine Corps. Killed in action at Iwo Jima, the Volcano Islands, February 19, 1945.

LYNN DAILY EVENING ITEM, MARCH 16, 1945

LT. ARTHUR B. SHELDON

C. M. (1-c) ROBERT PIRIE

2 Local Soldiers Die, 4 Reported Wounded

Arthur Sheldon, Robert Pirie Lose Lives in Separated Areas

Six local casualties, four soldiers and two sailors, in European and Pacific fronts, are revealed today in dispatches to relatives from War and Navy Departments. A Saugus flier, previously reported missing, and a Lynnfield Seabee, have been declared killed in action, while two Lynn, one Saugus and one Marblehead soldier have been hospitalized by wounds.

First Lt. Arthur B. Sheldon. Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur B. Sheldon of 11 Lewis street, Saugus, reported missing two months ago over Belgium, and Robt. Pirie, U. S. N. R. carpenters mate 1-c of Sylvan circle South Lynnfield, with the Marines in the Pacific invasion, have been killed.

Corp. Earl Shea, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold F. Shea, of 199 Marianna street; Pfc. Stephen Kapopoulos, of 15 Barnard street, Marblehead, sustained wounds in Germany, while Pvt. Albert K. Hollis, son of Daniel Hollis of 431 Boston street, were wounded in the European area and Pvt. George Hill of 17 Seminole street, Saugus, was wounded by shrapnel on Leyte Island.

Plane Shot Down

Lt. Sheldon, 23, was pilot of a Mustang fighter and was reported missing in action several months

See CASUALTIES on Page 2, Col. 6

Casualties—

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

ago over Belgium. He was declared to have been seen falling behind German lines after his plane had been struck by enemy fire. Since that time no word has been received. This was received a day following announcement he had been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, in January this year.

He entered the armed forces in September, 1942, and received his pilot's wings at Napier Field, Ala., a year later, when he was commissioned. After going overseas, based in England, he was promoted to first lieutenant.

Lt. Sheldon was graduated from Saugus High school in 1939, and before entering the Army was employed as an apprentice toolmaker at the Charlestown Navy Yard. He held the Air Medal and Oak Leaf Clusters. Besides his parents he leaves two brothers, Ens. Wilfred C. Sheldon, 24, in the Naval Air Corps and Thomas G. Sheldon in the Merchant Marine, and a sister, Miss Nancy Sheldon, assistant field secretary for selective service, all of Saugus.

In Pacific Invasion

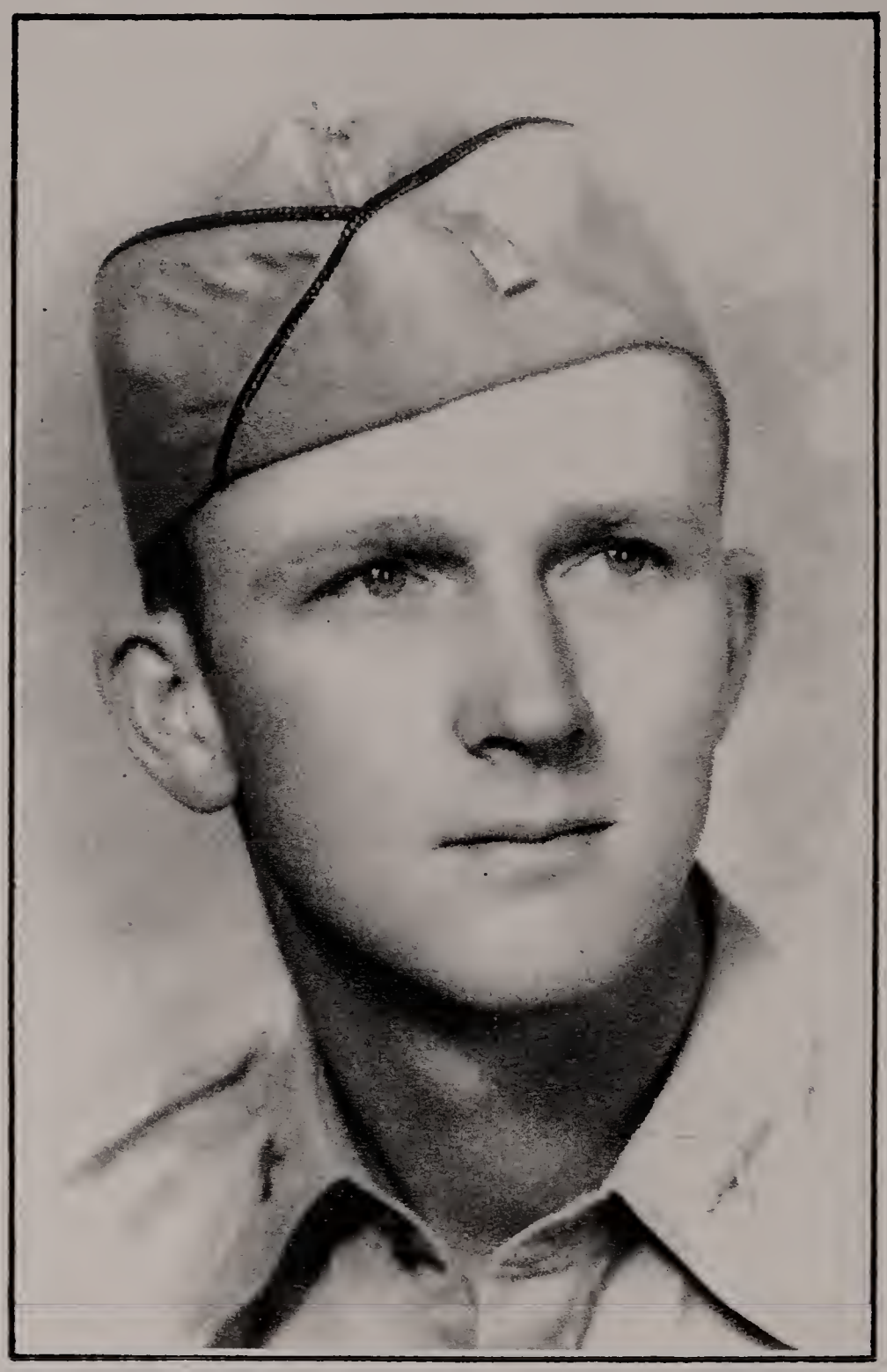
Robert Pirie, 35, U.S.N.R., a Seabee, was atta[illegible] the Fourth Division, U. S. [illegible]arine Corps. It was his first [illegible]ment against Japanese, and [illegible] had previously been stationed [illegible] Harbor.

He was the husband of Mrs. Barbara (Shaw) Pirie of South Lynnfield and son of Mr. and Mrs. Fre[illegible] Pirie of 215 Nahant road.

Carpenter's Mate Pirie was bor[illegible] in Nahant, June 10, 1909, attended Nahant school and was graduated from Lynn Classical High school. [illegible]e entered the service in 1942 and [illegible]as home on leave in Nov., 1943.

For 12 years he was associated [illegible]ith his father in the building and [illegible]ontracting business in this city. [illegible]as treasurer of the Taxpapers' [illegible]ssociation of Lynnfield and a member of the Couples club.

Besides his wife and parents he leaves a brother, William C. Pirie of Scarsdale, N. Y.



First Lieutenant Charles N. Todd

Age 23. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson B. Todd, Summer Street, Lynnfield. 1st Lieutenant, U.S.Army. Served with Company B, 809th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Killed in action in Germany, March 8, 1945.

THE WAKEFIELD DAILY ITEM, MARCH 20, 1945

Second In Lynnfield Family to Lose Life In Action In Germany

First Lt. Charles N. Todd Killed Three Months After His Younger Brother, David

For the second time within the past three months war has struck at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson B. Todd, Summer st, Lynnfield Center. Their second son, First Lieutenant Charles Nelson Todd, 23, was killed in action in Germany on March 8, according to a telegram from the War Department received by the young officer's parents on Sunday evening.

The youngest son of the family, David Bradstreet Todd, 19, private, first-class, in the infantry, was killed in action in Germany in December.

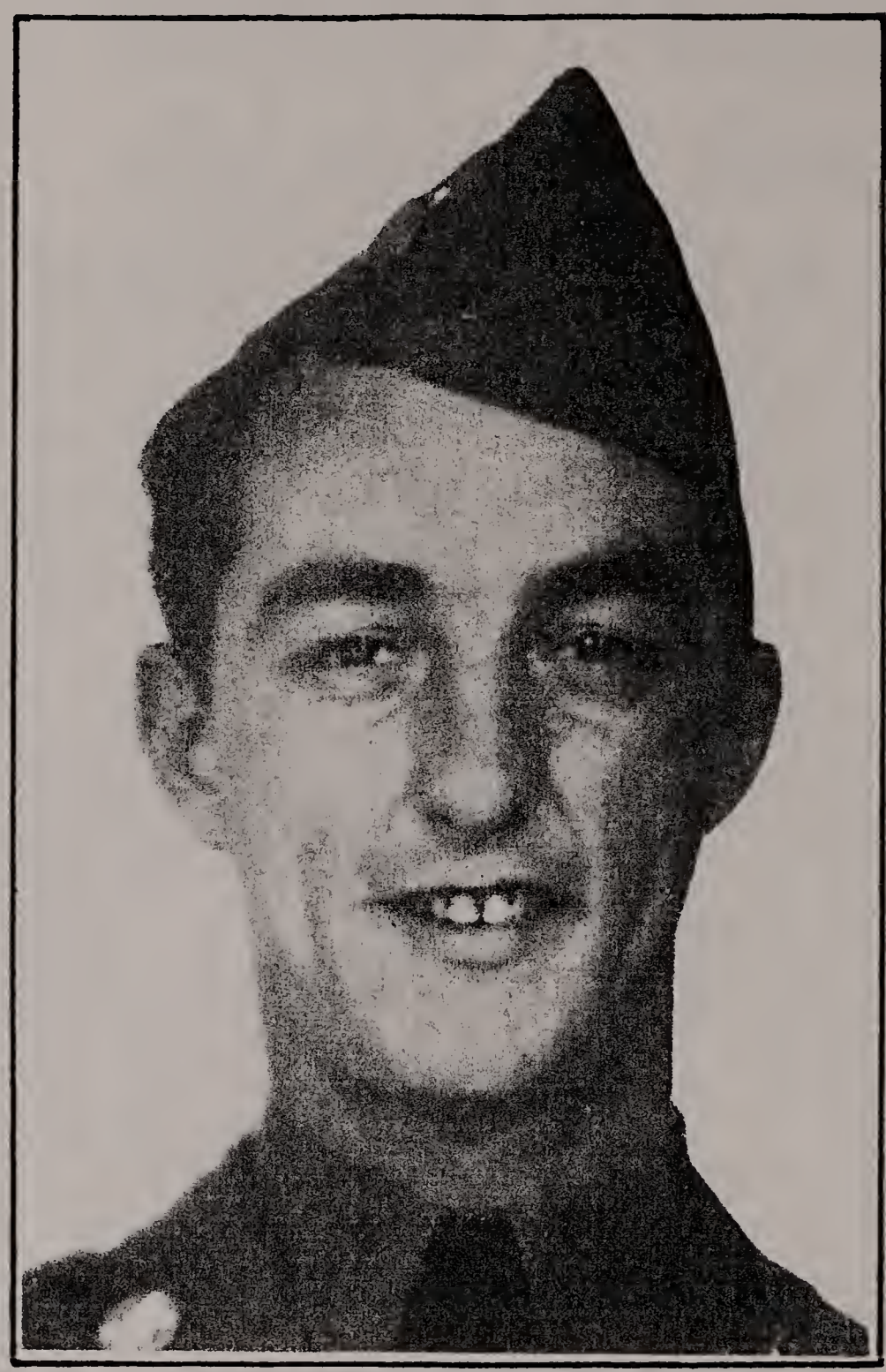
Lt. Todd enlisted in the army in January 1942. He received his basic training at Fort Bragg, N. C., and was commissioned a second lieutenant at Fort Sill, Okl., in August, 1942, when he was 21. He was promoted to first lieutenant in April, 1943, while he was at Camp Hood, Tex. He went overseas last November.

He was a graduate of Huntington School, Boston, Class of 1938, and attended Dartmouth College for two years. During his four years at Huntington, he was an honor student and also took part in several extra-curricular activities. He was manager of track in his junior year and in his senior year he was vice-president of his class, captain of the tennis team and editor-in-chief of the Huntington Record.

Following his two years at Dartmouth, he was with the Krippendorf Kalculator Company of Lynn until his enlistment.

Lt. Charles N. Todd

Besides his parents he leaves an older brother, Dr. Barnard P. Todd of Beverly.



Corporal Roy J. LaFrenier

Age 29. Son of Mrs. Madeleine Rapp, 217 Main Street, Lynnfield. Corporal, U.S.Army. Served with an antiaircraft division. Killed in Germany, March 9, 1945.

THE WAKEFIELD DAILY ITEM, APRIL9, 1945

Cpl. Roy LaFrenier, Lynnfield, Killed In Action In Germany

Previously Had Been Reported Missing; Had Received Unit Citation

Mrs. Madeleine Rapp, 217 Main st, Lynnfield Center, has received word from the War Department that her elder son, Cpl. Roy J. LaFrenier, 29, was killed in action in Germany, on March 9. He was in an anti-aircraft division.

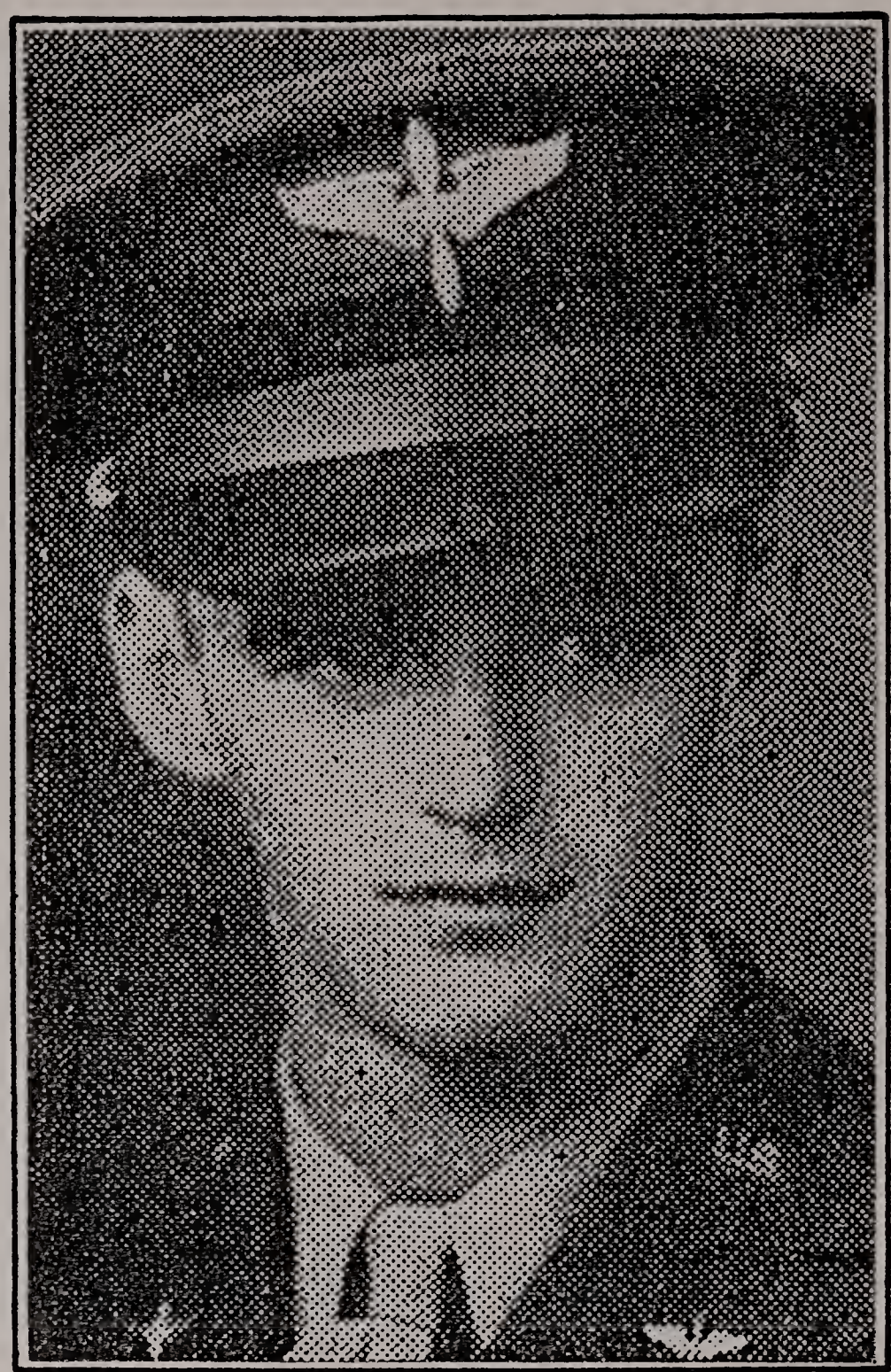
This information was received last Wednesday, April 4. Just a week earlier, March 28, Mrs. Rapp received a telegram from the War Department informing her that Cpl. LaFrenier was missing in action as of the same date, March 9. An hour after this first telegram was received, a letter came from her son, written Feb. 28, containing a Presidential unit citation for action in Luxembourg in December.

Cpl. LaFrenier entered the service in February, 1940, received training at Fort Bragg, N. C., Paterson, N. J., Fort Hamilton, N. Y., and went overseas in August, 1942. He was in Iceland for two years, and then went to England, Belgium, France and Germany.

He was born in Salmon Falls, N. H., attended schools in Newton Falls, and Boston English High School, class of 1926. Previous to entering the army, he was employed at a Melrose service station.

A brother, Pfc. Florian LaFrenier, is in Germany, in the infantry. Pfc. LaFrenier has been in the service since March, 1941; was in the Army Air Force for some time, but received a fractured elbow while in training and was transferred to the infantry. He has been overseas since last October. His wife, the former Dorothy Nugent, and their 8-months-old daughter, Mary Madeleine, live with Mrs. LaFrenier's mother, Mrs. Mary Nugent, Maddison st, Malden.

A sister, Miss Katherine LaFrenier, lives at home and works at Sylvania Electric Products, Inc., Wakefield.



First Lieutenant Richard R. Poeton

Age 21. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Poeton, Salem Street, Lynnfield. 1st Lieutenant , U.S.Air Force. Fighter pilot with 350th Fighter Group. Killed in action over northern Italy, April 16, 1945.

THE WAKEFIELD DAILY ITEM, APRIL 30, 1945

Lt. Richard Poeton, South Lynnfield, Is Killed In Italy

Dies Day After He Wrote Letter Saying He Had Completed 78 Missions

Lt. Richard R. Poeton, 21, U. S. Army Air Force, son of Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Poeton of Salem st, South Lynnfield, was killed in action in Italy on April 16, according to a telegram received from the War Department by his parents, Saturday morning.

Lt. Poeton was killed the day after he had written his parents that he had been awarded the air medal with three oak-leaf clusters. He noted that he had completed 78 missions as a fighter pilot with the 350th Fighter Group in the European theatre of operations.

Early last week, Mr. and Mrs. Poeton received a money order from a Lt. Mitchell, a member of their son's squadron, with a note, dated April 19, attached, which read: "This is the money that was in Richard's wallet. I'll write later."

At the time his parents received the money order, they had had no official notification from the government of Lt. Poeton's death.

A memorial service for Lt. Poeton will be held at the Lynnfield Community Church, Salem st, South Lynnfield, next Sunday afternoon at 2:30.

Lt. Poeton was graduated from Wakefield High School in 1941 and attended Northeastern University for two years.

In February, 1944, he was commissioned a second lieutenant at Luke Field, Ariz., and in March, 1945, he was promoted to first lieutenant at an airfield somewhere in Italy.

Lt. Richard R. Poeton

He was the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Poeton. His father is proprietor of Poeton's gasoline filling station on the Newburyport Turnpike.

Pharmacist's Mate 2/c Richard F. Crooker

Age 22. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Crooker, Pillings Pond, Lynnfield. Pharmacist's Mate Second Class, U.S.Navy. Died at Chelsea Naval Hospital, March 16, 1947.

THE WAKEFIELD DAILY ITEM, MARCH 17, 1947

Lynnfield Centre

Navy Veteran Dies

Richard F. Crooker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Crooker, Sr., of Pillings Pond, died on Sunday at the Chelsea Naval Hospital, where he had been undergoing treatment since last November.

Mr. Crooker was stricken while on duty in China with the navy as a pharmacist's mate, 2/c, and was flown by ambulance plane to the United States.

Funeral services were held this afternoon in the hospital chapel.

PART TWO:

KOREA AND VIETNAM

Airman Second Class Ronald J. Foglietta

Age 20. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Foglietta, 14 Birchwood Road, Lynnfield. Airman 2nd Class, 6167 Operation SQ, Air Force. Killed in plane crash near Seoul, Korea, February 27, 1953.

THE WAKEFIELD DAILY ITEM, MARCH 2, 1953

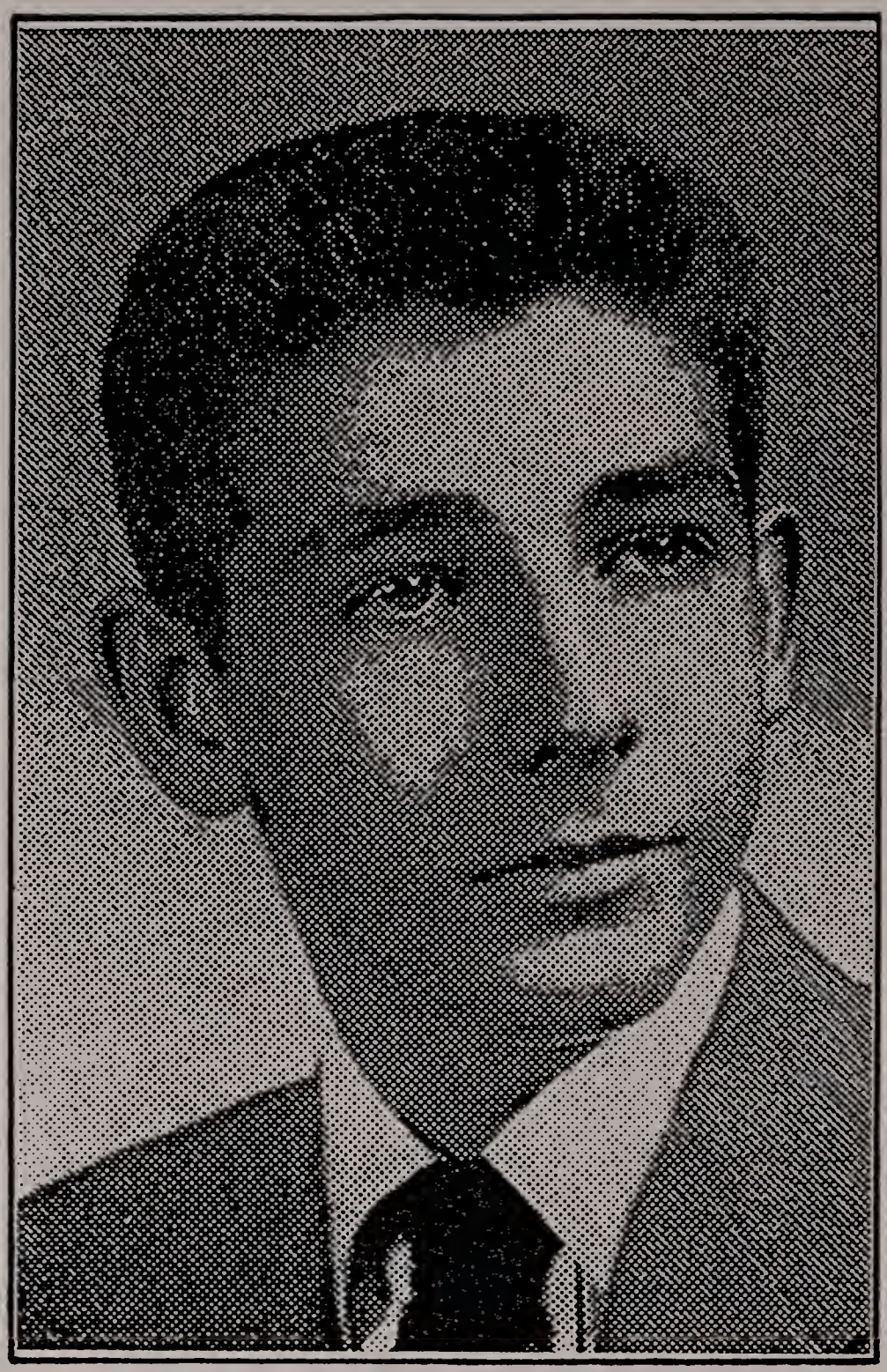
Lynnfield Airman Is Killed In Korea Two Weeks After Arrival

The Korean war struck home at Lynnfield Center on the week-end when Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Fogletta of 14 Birchwood rd received a telegram from Washington, Friday evening, informing them that their son, Ronald Joseph, the oldest of their seven children, had been killed in an airplane accident in Korea that day.

No further information was given in the telegram, except that a letter with details would follow.

Ronald had been in Korea less than two weeks, following 30 days' leave at home over Christmas and New Year's. He previously had been at the air base at Wichita Falls, Texas. He enlisted in the Air Force a year ago last month. His family had received a letter from him written after his arrival in Korea.

The young airman would have been 21 on April 9. He was a graduate of Wakefield High School, class of 1951, was a member of the Eastern Rifle and Revolver Club, and the Holy Name Society of Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Lynnfield.



Lieutenant (jg) David R. Hardy

Age 25. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Hardy, 849 Salem Street, Lynnfield. Lieutenant (jg), U.S. Naval Air Force. Pilot. Killed December 21, 1960, in plane crash off Argentia, Newfoundland.

THE WAKEFIELD DAILY ITEM, DECEMBER 22, 1960

Lynnfield Man, WHS Grad, Presumed Dead In Crash Of Plane Off Newfoundland

Lt. David Hardy Was To Have Been Married On Jan. 1

A 25-year-old graduate of Wakefield High School from Lynnfield is among nine Navy men presumed lost in the crash of a U. S. Navy plane off the southeast tip of Newfoundland, yesterday.

Based in Brunswick, Me., the crew is believed dead.

Among them was Lt. (jg) David R. Hardy of 849 Salem st, Lynnfield, who graduated from WHS in 1952, and five years later from Northeastern University.

For the Hardy family, the tragedy was compounded, as the naval aviator was to have married pretty Nancy Carter of Laurel, Miss., on New Year's Day.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Hardy of Lynnfield, who survive him as well as a sister, Denise, 28, also of Lynnfield.

It is believed that Hardy was co-pilot of the ill-fated plane.

Hardy received his training at Pensacola, Fla.

Mrs. Hardy is a clerk at the Lynnfield Center Post Office, but during the Christmas rush is temporarily assigned to the post office in South Lynnfield.

Parts of the wreckage of the P-2V Neptune and several bodies were recovered by an American freighter.

The Neptune left Argentia, the U. S. Naval base in Newfoundland, to participate in special exercises. The base normally uses Neptunes for ice reconnaissance and coastal control work.

Classmates of Hardy recall him at Wakefield High School and held him in high regard.

First Lieutenant Kent H. Waring

Age 25. Son of Mr. and Mrs. George H. Waring, formerly of 946 Salem Street, Lynnfield; husband of Nancy Maxwell Waring.; father of Keith A. Waring, age 3, and Kent H. Waring, Jr.,born 3 months after his father's death. 1st Lieut., U.S. Air Force. Pilot with 98th Fighter Interceptor Squadron. Killed on training mission, January 6, 1961.

THE WAKEFIELD DAILY ITEM, JANUARY 9, 1961

Lynnfield Flier, WHS Grad, Is Still Missing

The search for a former Lynnfield man, First Lt. Kent H. Waring, 25, son of Mr. and Mrs. George H. Waring of Endicott st, Boxford, and husband of Mrs. Nancy (Maxwell) Waring, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Maxwell of 25 Endicott st, Saugus, who parachuted from his disabled F101B jet fighter-interceptor, 14,000 feet over the ocean off Dover, Del., Friday afternoon, has been discontinued by the Coast Guard.

The body of Second Lt. Donat O. Desrosiers, 22, of Attleboro, the plane's radar observer, was recovered from Delaware Bay two hours after the jet plane plunged from 32,000 feet.

Officials at Dover Air Force Base, Del., from where the craft took off, said the cause still was under investigation.

This is the second tragedy in the past two weeks that has claimed the lives of two Wakefield High School graduates. Lt. (jg) David R. Hardy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Hardy of 849 Salem st, Lynnfield, a WHS 1952 graduate, was among nine Navy men lost in the crash of a Navy plane off the southeast tip of Newfoundland on Dec. 21, 1960.

Lt. Waring was born in Peabody and lived in Lynnfield 17 years before the family moved from 946 Salem st to Topsfield seven years ago. He attended Lynnfield schools and graduated from Wakefield High School in 1954.

According to Air Force officials, Lts. Waring and Desrosiers were flying at the high altitude 40 miles southeast of the air base when the plane went into a steep dive.

The accident was reportedly witnessed by occupants of another plane participating in a training flight. When the plane reached 14,000 feet the lieutenants bailed out and landed in the water.

The crew of a Coast Guard boat found the body of Desrosiers about two hours later and the search continued for Waring, pilot of the aircraft. The Coast Guard ended its search late Saturday.

Lt. Waring entered the Air Force cadet training program in 1955 and after being at several bases, was assigned to the Delaware base about a year ago.

His wife is expecting her second child in March. They have a son, Keith A. Waring, age 3. Lt. Waring has two brothers, Kurt Waring, 21, a student at Northeastern University and Dale H. Waring, 17, a student at Masconomet Regional High School, Boxford; and a sister, Jill Waring, 12.

Lt. Waring and his wife have resided in Dover for about a year. His father is an engineer in the General Electric Company's power plant in Lynn.

First Lieutenant Allan H. Jordan

Age 24. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Jordan, 758 Main Street, Lynnfield. 1st Lieutenant, U.S. Marine Corps. Served with Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 26th Marines, 3rd Marine Division. Killed in action, April 6, 1968, on Hill 700 at the Battle of Khe Sanh, Vietnam.

THE WAKEFIELD DAILY ITEM, APRIL 11, 1968

First Lieut. Allan H. Jordan -- "A Proud Marine" in Vietnam

Lynnfield's 1st Fatality

Lynnfield's first victim of the Vietnam War shot down while on foot patrol, Saturday, two Marine Corps captains notified his parents late Wednesday afternoon.

He is 1st Lt. Allan H. Jordan, 24, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold J. Jordan of 758 Main st, Lynnfield.

Lt. Jordan was an artillery officer and was a forward observer at the once-besieged Khe Sanh base where U.S. artillery and air bombings badly mauled the 20,000 Communist troops that had it surrounded.

"A proud Marine" he was, said his mother to the Wakefield Item this morning. Apparently he was leading a foot patrol in the area of Quang Tri, south of the demilitarized zone Saturday when fatally wounded.

A graduate of Lynnfield High School in 1961, Lt. Jordan played in the school band and also was on the track team. He carried his excellent ability as a drummer to Union College in Schenectady, N.Y. where he played with a rock'n roll group. He was graduated from Union in 1966 with a BA degree in history and government.

Lt. Jordan enlisted in the Marine Corps while a senior at Union. He was commissioned in October of that year.

A resident of Lynnfield for 21 of his young years, he received all his pre-formal education in the Lynnfield school system. He also was active in Explorer Scouts.

In addition to his parents, 1st. Lt. Jordan is survived by three brothers and a sister - Robert, a University of Maine senior; Eric, a senior at Lynnfield High; John, a 9th grader at Lynnfield Junior High, and Nancy, a junior at Lynnfield High.

Mr. Jordan is an executive with General Electric in Lynn.

Mrs. Jordan said today that the family is awaiting further word from the Defense Department about the return of their son's body.

LYNNFIELD WEEKLY NEWS, OCTOBER 21, 1999

On Sunday First Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps Alan Jordan was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star with a Combat V for performing heroic actions in Viet Nam that were never recognized during a ceremony at the Iwo Jima Memorial in Newington, Conn.

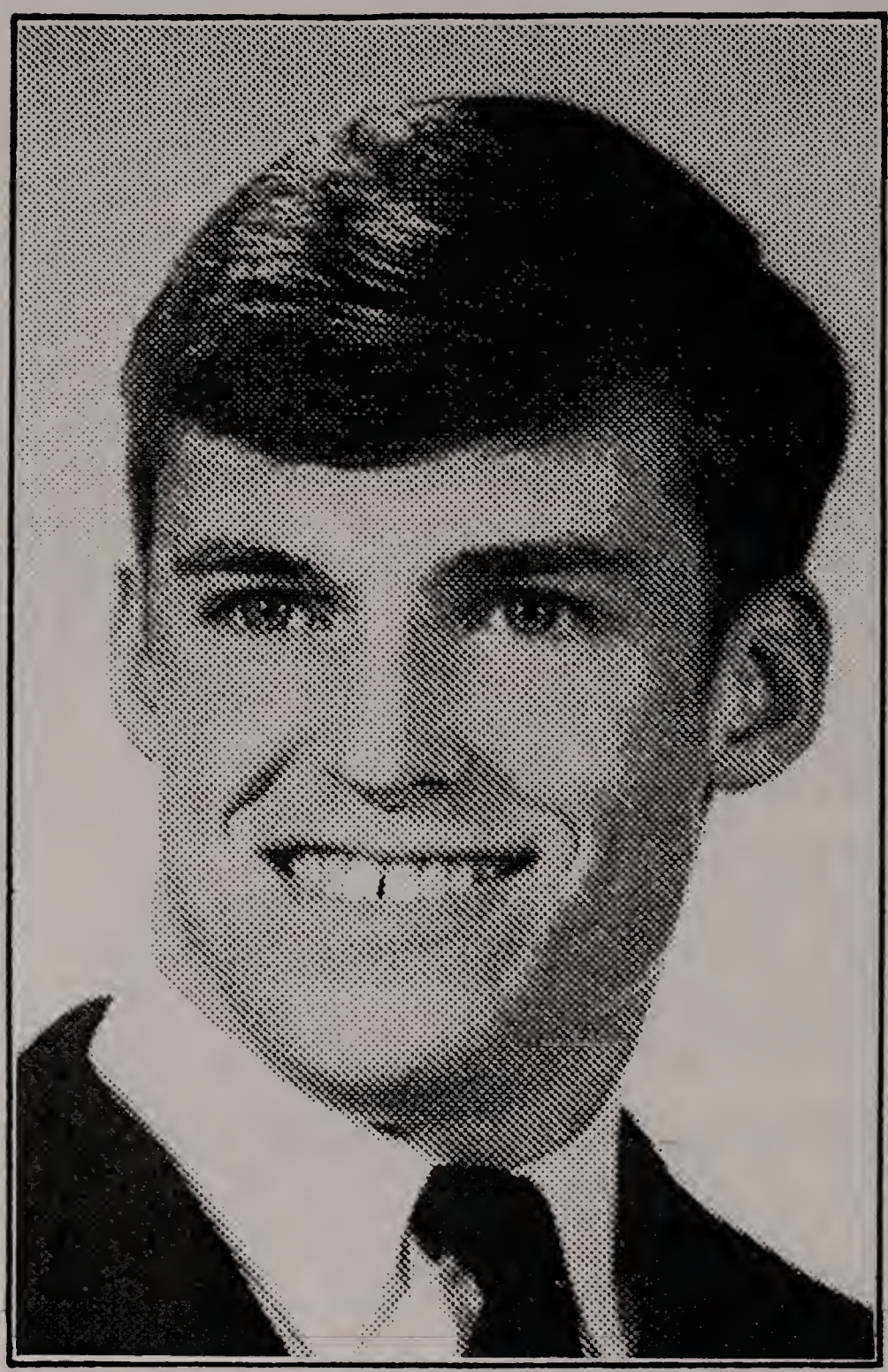
The citation read " For conspicuous gallantry and courage in action while serving as the Forward Observer with Golf Company, Second Battalion, Twenty-Sixth Marines, Third Marine Division ... By his courageous actions, superior professional skill and unwavering devotion to duty which resulted in the sacrifice of his own life, First Lieutenant Jordan inspired all who observed him and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service."

The ceremony was opened with music by the Avon Community Band followed by a welcome by Dr. George Gentile of the Iwo Jima Memorial Historical Foundation.

The Bronze Star was then presented to Mrs. Emily Jordan, Allan's mother.

"Many people will walk in and out of your life; but only very special people will leave footprints on your heart."

-- Eleanor Roosevelt.



Lieutenant (jg) Eric Charles Thompson

Age 23. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Thompson, 16 Longbow Rd., Lynnfield. Lieutenant (jg), U.S.N. Bombardier-Navigator, Naval Air Force. Killed in training jet crash at Oceana Naval Air Station, Virginia, August 9, 1972.

THE WAKEFIELD DAILY ITEM,

AUGUST 14, 1972

Lt. Thompson Accident Victim

Memorial services were held at 11 o'clock this morning for Lt. (jg) Eric Charles Thompson, U.S.N., son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Thompson of 16 Longbow rd. Lynnfield, who was killed Wednesday night when the training jet, in which he served as bombardier-navigator crashed while landing at Oceana Naval Air Station, Virginia.

The Intruder jet, piloted by Lt. Dennis Anderson of Virginia Beach, Va., was returning to the field from practice carrier landings when it crashed at the end of the runway.

Lt. Thompson, 23, was a graduate of Lynnfield High School and had received his baccalaureate degree cum laude from Brown University in 1970. He was a cadet leader in the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps at Brown.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by a sister, Susan Thompson.

Memorial services were held in the Lynnfield Centre Congregational Church. There were no visiting hours.

THE WAKEFIELD DAILY ITEM,

SEPT. 21, 1973

Norway Maple Tree Planted as Living Memorial

A beautiful Norway maple tree, some 30 feet in height, was set in place yesterday on the Summer st front lawn of Lynnfield Centre Congregational Church as a living memorial to the late Lt. (j.g.) Eric Charles Thompson.

The tree is a gift to the church and was made available by the many friends of Lt. Thompson and by his parents Mr. and Mrs. Charles Thompson, and family, 16 Longbow rd, Lynnfield.

Lt Thompson was a graduate of Lynnfield High School, Class of 1965 and graduated cum laude from Brown University, Class of 1970.

He was killed in early August, 1972, when the training jet, in which he served as bombardier-navigator, crashed while landing at Oceana Naval Air Station, Virginia.

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— PAUL PINKHAM —

Meanwhile, the Japanese had been moving across the Pacific conquering one island after another. The largest U.S. Army in the Pacific was located on the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines. Gen. Douglas MacArthur was in command there. When a U.S. flier reported a large Japanese fleet seemed headed for Bataan, MacArthur decided he should leave the troops there in charge of Gen. Wainright while he (MacArthur) went back to the U.S. to help the military services prepare men to take back the Pacific islands now held by the Japanese.

The American troops on Bataan realized they were outmanned and outgunned by the Japanese army; so Gen. Wainright decided to surrender. The Japanese commander regarded surrender as an act of cowardice. His men had been taught to fight to the death. Now he decided to make the Americans pay for their cowardly surrender. And so the Bataan Death March began. Two men from Lynnfield were on the Death March — Paul Pinkham and Sumner Smith. Sumner survived the Death March and also the boat ride to Japan and imprisonment there.

Many years later the Lynnfield Veterans Agent asked Sumner if he could tell what happened on the Death March. At first Sumner said, "No." Then one day he said, "I'll try." He told how the officer who had charge of Sumner's section of the line of prisoners ordered them each morning to line up. Each prisoner had a colored strip attached to his vest. Sumner's color was red. One morning the officer ordered the prisoners with "red" to step forward. Then he walked down the row and pushed some of them back. Sumner was one of those he pushed back. When the officer reached the end of the line, he ordered his men to kill those still standing out front. Some were shot. Some were beheaded. At that point Sumner put

his head down on his hands; When he raised his heads his face was wet with tears. He said, "I can't go on. It hurts too much to remember." The Veterans Agent never asked Sumner about the Death March again. One day, though, Sumner offered to tell what happened when the prisoners were to be taken to Japan.

By the late summer of 1944, the Americans had finally pushed the Japanese off one Pacific Island after another and MacArthur was finally ready to return to the Bataan Peninsula. The Japanese knew MacArthur had more than enough troops and support ships to take command of Bataan. So the Japanese marched the American prisoners up the coast to a small port where a Japanese troop ship was waiting. As soon as the prisoners were all aboard, the ship took off for Japan by way of the China coast. Unfortunately, it was not marked as a Prisoner-of-War (POW) ship. American fliers bombed the ship which sank quickly, but not before the prisoners on the top deck had time to jump into the water. Sumner Smith was one of these. All those below deck went down with the ship. Paul Pinkham was one of those. He died Oct 24, 1944. (Since Paul became a prisoner on May 6, 1942, and remained a prisoner until his death, Paul Pinkham is listed as the first Lynnfield Gold Star Serviceman.)

For the next 2 hours Sumner Smith and the others from the top deck did their best to stay afloat; but some tired and drowned. Others appeared to be pulled under by sharks. Sumner attributed his own survival to all the swimming he used to do on hot summer days at Pillings Pond in Lynnfield. Finally, a Japanese ship captain spotted the survivors and took them to Japan where they remained as prisoners until the war ended in August of '45.

The day after Gen. Douglas MacArthur accepted the formal surrender of the Japanese Emperor aboard the American flagship, the American prisoners held by the Japanese were turned over to the American Army. They were quickly returned to the United States. When Sumner Smith arrived in Lynnfield, he was honored by a parade through town. When he was asked if there was anything the town could do for him, he replied, "I want to carry the Flag in the Memorial Day Parade." They thought he meant just the first Memorial Day Parade after his return home, but they were to learn that he meant he wanted to carry the American flag on Memorial Day as long as he was physically able to do so — and he did!

LLOYD ELWELL

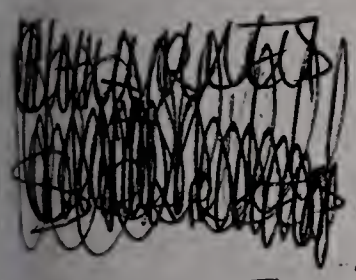
On May 6, 1942, Bataan had been taken by the Japanese. They had also taken many small Pacific Islands since Dec. 7, 1941. One of these islands was Attu Island, the westernmost of the Aleutian Islands. Lloyd Elwell of Lynnfield was killed there, May 29, 1943. Most Americans, even during World War II, never heard of Attu Island, but they would have heard about it if Lloyd and his fellow Americans had not stopped the Japs from building an airfield there. The Japs planned to fly from the easternmost point of Japanese controlled land in the Pacific to Attu Island, reload with gas, add bombs, and then take off for Alaska and Canada. But Lloyd and the rest of the Americans sent to Attu drove the Japs off before they could finish their landing strip and kept them off for the rest of the war. Unfortunately, Lloyd was killed, but not during the actual fighting. He and the other members of his company were so tired when they reached the top of the last hill on the island that they lay down to rest, but quickly fell asleep. A couple of Japs had been hiding in an underground bunker. They crept out and started to kill the sleeping Americans. The noise woke up the other Americans who quickly shot the Japs, but they were too late to save Lloyd Elwell.

CHARLES WESLEY TUTTLE

Charles Wesley Tuttle was killed in New Guinea, Aug. 7, 1943. C. Wesley Tuttle had enlisted with the air corps in July, 1942. He was 34 and the father of a 4 year old son, but he and his wife were separated and the son lived with her in Lynn.

As soon as C. Wesley completed his basic training, he was sent to New Guinea to serve with the American Air Force there. He became the gunner in the exposed turret outside the main body of the plane. He was wounded once, but as soon as he was released from the military hospital, he went right back to his old position in the exposed gun turret. Shortly thereafter, Aug. 7, 1943, he was killed.

Before the war ended, Charles Wesley's widow developed serious health problems; so she sent the boy to his grandfather in Lynnfield. So the boy grew up in the same house where his father grew up and went to the same school his father had attended. Eventually, he became a missionary to the people in a very poor section of South America.



WILLIAM H. SPARKES

The next serviceman from Lynnfield to die in the war was William H. Sparkes, son of Mr. & Mrs. William C. Sparkes. William grew up in Lynnfield which did not have its own high school in the 1930's. So he attended Wakefield High School. He was a star athlete at W.H.S. where he played varsity football and was captain of the basketball team one season and captain of the hockey team his senior year. He was graduated in 1932 and went on to college at Miami University in Ohio. He continued to play for the Lynnfield Town Teams of baseball and hockey whenever he was home. By early 1941 he had a job and was married, but he was increasingly upset over the German conquest of Europe. So he volunteered for the U.S. Army in March of 1941 (which was before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941). Sparkes began training to become a paratrooper with the Field Artillery Battalion of the U.S. 7th Army. After extensive training, his first assignment as a paratrooper came during the American invasion of Sicily which at that time was under the control of the German-Italian Army. (Mussolini still insisted that Italy remain an Ally of Germany. Shortly thereafter, the Italian people made Mussolini pay with his own life for his continued support of Germany.) The German-Italian Army on Sicily had lined up along the water's edge because the Americans were expected to arrive by boat. Sparkes and the rest of the paratroopers intended to land behind & above the defenders. However, the wind drove them back over the water; so they had to fight their way through the defenders. Soon they met the other Americans who had come by boat to ~~another~~ isolated area of the Sicilian seacoast and together they succeeded in bringing Sicily under U.S. control. Now the U.S. High Command announced it didn't have an immediate need for paratroopers; so Lieut. Sparkes and his men were asked to go by boat across to Anzio, Italy, to serve as infantrymen in the fighting there. The American officer in charge

(cont. next page)

(cont. Lt. WILLIAM H. SPARKES) 7

gave Lt. Sparkes a special assignment - to set up a radio system whereby he could call American ships and give them the coordinates needed ~~for them~~ to bomb ~~one~~ ~~of~~ the German troops ~~protecting~~ blocking the American units ~~[illegible]~~ exit from Anzio. Unfortunately, a German picked up the radio signals and traced them back to Lieut. Sparkes' position. The German then ordered his men to send a bomb to the coordinates he gave them. Lt. Sparkes was killed Feb. 5, 1944. Before the Americans finally moved out of Anzio, ~~[illegible]~~ 6,000 Americans had been killed there.

HERBERT DOW:

The U.S. troops finally moved out of Anzio and up the Italian peninsula. On July 15, 1944, near Pisa, Herbert Dow was killed. Herbert had entered the Army Aug. 26, 1943. He had graduated from Newburyport High School in 1933, but he moved to Lynnfield after he married Mildred Hennigan who worked for a store in Wakefield. They had no children; so that made Herbert a prime candidate for the draft. Local draft boards did not like to send fathers off to war. However, by the time Dow was killed, draft boards had to draft any man in good health whether or not he had children. The Army usually tried to place these fathers in non-front line positions. This was not very difficult since only one in every 20 soldiers served in the front lines. Quite often there were enough 19 year old draftees to fill these positions. These draftees had a higher than usual death rate because they did not have a chance to train with the men with whom they went into combat. As one former G.I. told me years later, "I still feel badly that I never even got to know one boy's name before he was killed."

JOHN E. HARRISS, JR.
(and RALPH CUSHMAN

The next two Lynnfield men who died in WW II served in New Guinea. They were John E. Harriss, Jr. and Ralph Cushman.

John E. Harriss, Jr. grew up in Lynnfield where he attended the old South School at the corner of Salem and Summer Streets. When the family moved to Milford-Stafford, England, he attended high school there. When he was 18, he enlisted in the RAF (Royal Air Force) and began training to become a fighter pilot. By the time he completed his training, the U.S. had entered the war; so he requested transfer to the United States Air Force. The request was granted. After further training in the U.S., he became a 2nd Lieutenant and was sent to New Guinea to serve with the U.S. Air Force there. In July, 1944, John and some of his friends volunteered to fly an aircraft, badly in need of repair, from Port Moresby, New Guinea, to Australia to an airplane repair facility there. On July 19, they took off. They were never heard from again. The speculation was that the plane just broke apart in flight. Today, John Harriss, Jr. is remembered on one of the MIA (Missing in Action) Memorials at the U.S. Cemetery at MANILLA. (Philippines)

RALPH CUSHMAN, NEXT PAGE →

RALPH CUSHMAN

Ralph Cushman, who had grown up in Maine, came to live with his ~~aunt~~ sister and ~~uncle~~ her husband in Lynnfield. His ~~uncle~~ brother-in-law was principal of the Lynnfield elementary school. As soon as Ralph officially became a resident of Lynnfield, he was eligible to be drafted. April 19, 1943, he entered the Army and joined the Seabees. He had lived long enough in Lynnfield to become acquainted with the young woman, Rachel Olmstead, who lived next door to his ~~aunt and~~ sister and ~~uncle~~ her husband. When he went away for basic training, he realized how much he missed her. He wrote to her and asked her to marry him. She accepted his proposal. They were married Aug 5, 1943, when he came home for a 2 weeks' leave before being sent to the Pacific. Just a year later, Aug. 16, 1944, Ralph died. The note the medical officer sent home to Rachel reported that Ralph died from Lymphogenous Leukemia and had been buried on an unknown island. After the war, a man who had served with Ralph as a Seabee on an airfield in New Guinea told an old Maine friend of Ralph what really happened. Each morning after our American fliers left on their daily missions, Jap fliers would make a quick pass over the landing strip and drop bombs so that the returning U.S. planes would crack up on landing. The Seabees had to hop right on their tractors and level out the landing strip. While ~~they~~ were working, the Japs sometimes returned and shot at the Seabees. If a Seabee were hit, a medic took him off the tractor seat and another seabee had to hop right on, even if the seat were covered with blood. "This is what happened day after day. Ralph wasn't our only Seabee who took sick and died. I still don't know how I ~~survived~~, managed to survive."

DAVID TODD

The next Lyonfield man to be killed was David Todd. When David entered the service, he had just turned 19.

He had completed 2 years at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. He scored high enough on the army entrance exam to be assigned to the Army Specialized Training Program. (ASTP). Unfortunately, in early 1944 ASTP was phased out. The notice that each man in the ASTP received from the government read as follows: "The army ground forces need intelligent young men to fill the depleted ranks of the infantry so that we can finish off our enemies."

The ASTP men were given 6 weeks of basic training. Several hundred ASTP men were sent to the 70th Division to replace the privates and privates first class who had recently been sent to the Pacific. The 70th was just completing two years of training at Camp Adair in Oregon and was now ready to report to ~~Little Rock~~ Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri for assignment overseas. The rest of the ASTP were less fortunate. They were also sent to ~~Little Rock~~ Fort Leonard Wood, but to await transfer to either east or west coast for shipment overseas as individual replacement front line riflemen.

At the same time that ASTP was discontinued, all the young corporals like John Zypsky were replaced by older men who had just finished their own basic training and John and the other young corporals were sent to ~~Little Rock~~ Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri for assignment overseas as replacement ~~[illegible]~~ infantrymen. While awaiting assignment, John talked with some of the 70th Div. ~~[illegible]~~ Medics. He liked them very much. When he saw a sign put up outside the 70th Div. Headquarters that read, "Medics wanted - will train," he hurried to apply. He was accepted and immediately began receiving training. Soon he noticed that the boxes of supplies being stacked outside 70th Div. headquarters were marked Boston, Mass. Good! That meant he was not going to the Pacific.

David Todd was still an unattached infantryman when

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he and other ex-ASTR-ers were sent to Boston and shipped to Europe as replacement infantrymen. David wound up with the 1st Infantry Division which was already beginning its attack on Aachen — the first German city to be attacked by Americans. The fighting for Aachen was bitter, but by Nov. 9 the Americans had completed the conquest of Aachen and were ready for a rest, but they were told to move right on into the Hurtgen Forest. The Forest had been planted by the Germans right after WWI to make sure no enemy could ever again invade Germany from Aachen. The trees they planted ~~had~~ had lower branches which lay right on the ground. Anyone walking through the forest would be tripped up unless he watched carefully where he walked. Unfortunately, the slowness of his forward progress often made him a prime target for the German defenders.

The Forest covered an area of 15 square miles, but it wrapped around the rear of Aachen and extended out at most 2 miles. There were a few roads through the Forest, but the Germans had them all mapped out. Anyone who tried to ~~theft~~ move on the roads was met by deadly machine gun fire. Some days the Americans were only able to move forward about 200 yards; and then at night, the Germans drove them part way back. David Todd was in the 1st Div. which had to move farther than the other Americans before it actually entered the Forest. Two days later, Nov. 11, David was killed.

Men from 3 American divisions started at the rear of Aachen, but 3 weeks later only men from the 1st & 9th divisions made it out of the Forest and over to their goal — the Rohr River. In those 3 weeks, 30,000 Americans had been killed or wounded or were M.I.A. It was the costliest battle of the war. The U.S. High Command decided it had to be hushed up.

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DAVID TODD, cont.

None of the papers or radio news broadcasts in the U.S. mentioned the Battle of the Hurtgen Forest. They didn't even know about it. There was a 2 weeks' delay in reporting to parents that their son had been killed. This was justified on the grounds that it would hurt parents to receive a letter from their son after they knew he was dead.

So the officers had two weeks to hide the truth about the deaths in the Forest. They attributed more of the soldiers' deaths to the fighting in Aachen than actually occurred there. Then they listed many as simply "died in Germany" with no date or place given. The Todds received such a notice when they answered the door the evening of Dec. 14 and were handed a telegram from the President. Mr. Todd assumed that the government was adhering to its rule to notify the parents 2 weeks after the death of their son - which meant David died Dec. 1. Both Mr. & Mrs. Todd took the news pretty hard, but Mr. Todd still had to go to work every day. He was vice-president and chief lawyer for a large corporation with its headquarters in Boston. But Mrs. Todd could not control her grief. David was the youngest of their three sons. He planned to study law like his father. All the hopes and plans for David were gone. Mrs. Todd went upstairs to her room and refused to leave it. The housekeeper had to take her meals to her room. It was a very sad time at the Todd household.

I have written about the Todds because they were our neighbors; so I knew how much they were hurt by David's death. But the parents of all the other young men killed in the Hurtgen Forest were also badly hurt by the news that their sons were dead.

ROBERT PIRIE

Mrs. Robert Pirie received her telegram from the President the end of February, 1945. She was especially upset because her husband, age 32, had signed up with the Seabees to do construction work, but the death notice read, "Robert Pirie of the 4th Div. of the U.S. Marine Corps ~~Division~~ was killed Feb. 19, 1945, on Iwo Jima." Someone finally convinced her that the military services had the right to shift anyone to a different military division if he were needed there, but she still felt that her husband should not have been transferred from the Seabees.

CHARLES TODD

The next Lynnfield man to be killed was Charles Todd. Charles was 3 years older than his brother David. After Charles graduated from Huntington Prep, he went to Dartmouth College in N.H. After 2 years there, he told his parents that college was not for him, so he went to work for a firm in Lynn. While he was there, WWII began and Charles and a friend from Lynnfield decided to enlist. They hoped to go into battle together, but the Army had other ideas. His friend was immediately put to work →

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as a bookkeeper, and Charles was sent out west to train on a new Army invention called a tank destroyer. It was built like a tank except that it had wheels instead of tank treads so that it could run circles around a tank and destroy it. Perfecting the equipment on board and training a team of men to operate ~~to operate~~ each tank destroyer took a great deal of time. When Charles finally left for Europe in late Oct. 1944, he was a 1st Lieut. in command of a tank destroyer. All ~~went~~ went well for his team until March 7, 1945, when Charles received orders to meet a company of infantry men and escort them to their new assignment. When the infantry men were not at the meeting site, Charles decided to wait until dawn. At daybreak, Charles stood up in the turret for one last look. Unfortunately, a German sharpshooter saw Charles and fired one shot that struck Charles in the forehead. He collapsed in the arms of the Sergeant seated below him. The Sergeant ordered the driver to move out fast. Charles died in the sgt.'s arms. The sgt. made a promise to himself that if he survived the war himself, he would visit Charles' parents to tell them what a fine leader Charles had been.

Two weeks went by and then Mr. Todd heard the knock on the door again and received their second telegram from the President - this one saying that Charles had been killed in Germany on March 8, 1945. Mr. Todd now had the sad task of going upstairs to his wife's room to tell her the news that Charles was dead. It was a very sad night for the Todds. The next day Mr. Todd had to go to work, but Mrs. Todd stayed in her room. When mid April arrived, she could see from her window that the flower garden was starting to come to life. She had planted the garden and over the years had added more sections to it. So it was her job now to take care of it. She left her room and slowly began to lead a more normal life again.

CORPORAL ROY LaFrenier

The day after Charles Todd was killed, another man from Lyonfield was killed - Cpl. Roy LaFrenier. Roy had entered the US Army in February, 1942 (before the US had entered WWII). He trained to serve with an Anti-Aircraft Unit. In August, 1943 his unit was sent to Iceland for two years and then to England, Belgium, France, and Germany. He was killed in Germany, March 9, 1945. Two weeks later, his mother, Mrs. Madeleine Rapp, was notified that he was missing. Just an hour later she received a letter from her son (written Feb. 28), telling her that his unit had received a Presidential citation for action in Luxembourg in December. Then, on April 4, any lingering hopes she might have had were destroyed. The telegram from the President arrived, informing her that Cpl. Roy LaFrenier was killed in action on Mar. 9, 1945. It wasn't easy to be the mother of a son serving overseas. She had now lost her oldest child!

Unfortunately, many American parents were to experience the same deep sense of loss that Madeleine Rapp had felt. By the end of the war in late Aug. of 1945, 406,000 U.S. families had received their own telegrams from the President announcing the death of a son.

Lt. RICHARD POETON

Mr. + Mrs. Josiah Poeton received a letter from their only child, Lt. Richard Poeton, telling them he had just received the Air Medal with 3 oak leaf clusters and that he had just one more mission to complete (which would be his 78th) to make him eligible for a possible trip home.

Richard's letter was dated April 15. A few days later, the Poetons received a letter from a Lieut. in Richard's flight squadron. It contained a money order and a note saying, "This is the money that was in Richard's wallet. I'll write more later." A few more days passed. Then they received the ~~letter~~ Telegram from the President, "Lt. Richard Poeton died April 16, 1945, when his plane was struck by hostile fire."

Mr. + Mrs. Poeton arranged for their Lynnfield Community Church to hold a memorial service for Richard the following Sunday and they gave the church a table for the Vestibule in Richard's memory.

The Lynnfield Fire Dept. had its own way of remembering Richard. They posted a thank-you letter in the hallway outside the Fire Dept. Office. The letter was from a woman who thanked the Lynnfield Fire Dept. Captain Josiah Poeton and his volunteer firemen for saving her home from a forest fire. Among the volunteers she listed was Richard Poeton who was a teenager at that time.

RICHARD F. CROOKER.

RICHARD F. CROOKER, AGE 22, Pharmacist's Mate, Second Class, U.S. NAVY, was STILL STATIONED IN CHINA IN NOVEMBER, 1946 WHEN HE CONTRACTED MALARIA AND WAS FLOWN TO BOSTON, MASS. AND TAKEN TO THE CHELSEA NAVAL HOSPITAL. HE DIED THERE MARCH 16, 1947.

HE WAS THE SON OF MR. + MRS. RICHARD CROCKER, SR. OF LYNNFIELD.

BY THE TIME THE VETERAN'S AGENT ASKED ME TO TRY TO ASSEMBLE INFORMATION ON THE LYNNFIELD GOLD STAR MEN, NO ONE KNEW ANYTHING ABOUT THE PARENTS AND THE CHELSEA NAVAL HOSPITAL HAD BEEN TORN DOWN AND ITS RECORDS SENT ELSEWHERE. (MY INFORMATION CAME FROM THE WAKEFIELD DAILY ITEM MARCH 17, 1947.)